

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4913

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, VS

SUBJECT: TEXT OF PRESIDENT THIEU'S STATEMENT AT PRESENTATION OF
CREDENTIALS CEREMONY

REF: SAIGON 11991

1. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE REPLY MADE BY PRESIDENT
THIEU TO AMBASSADOR MARTIN AT THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS
CEREMONY HELD ON JULY 20.

QUOTE: MR. AMBASSADOR,

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT I RECEIVE THE LETTERS BY
WHICH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACCREDITS
YOU AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY TO THE
REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM.

FOR MANY LONG YEARS, OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN SIDE BY
SIDE AGAINST COMMUNIST AGGRESSION, AND THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM
WILL ALWAYS REMAIN GRATEFUL TO THE VALIANT PEOPLE OF THE
UNITED STATES FOR THEIR SACRIFICES AND GENEROUS HELP.

THEIR SACRIFICES SHALL NOT BE IN VAIN BECAUSE THE
COMMUNISTS' REPEATED INVASIONS HAVE BEEN THWARTED, AND HANOI
FINALLY HAD TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF
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THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. WITH THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS

AGREEMENT, IT IS OUR HOPE AND OUR BELIEF THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE CLOSELY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE, A PEACE WITH HONOR AND IN FREEDOM.

YOU COME TO VIET-NAM ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW EPOCH, IN WHICH WE SHALL WITNESS EVENTS THAT WILL DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, ITS POLITICAL ORIENTATION, ITS SECURITY AND ALSO ITS PROGRESS.

I BELIEVE THAT VIET-NAM HAS, IN NO SMALL MEASURE, PLAYED A ROLE IN THE SHAPING OF THE NIXON DOCTRINE, AS APPLIED TO THE TYPE OF CHALLENGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. SINCE ITS INCEPTION, WE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM HAVE HEARTILY APPROVED AND SUPPORTED THIS DOCTRINE, WHEREBY THE THREATENED NATIONS, ALLIED WITH THE UNITED STATES SHOULD ASSUME GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE DEFENSE OF THEIR FREEDOM, WHILE THE UNITED STATES WILL MAINTAIN ITS BASIC COMMITMENTS AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE HELP.

VIET-NAM COULD BE CONSIDERED A TEST CASE FOR THAT DOCTRINE AND IT WOULD NOT BE EXAGGERATED TO ASSUME THAT ALL THE NATIONS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND MANY OTHER NATIONS ELSEWHERE, ARE FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE COURSE OF EVENTS IN THIS COUNTRY.

FOR OUR PART, MY GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO THE SERIOUS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND EARNESTLY HOPE THAT WE MAY ACHIEVE A GENUINE AND LASTING PEACE IN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND ON THE BASIS OF THE RIGHT OF OUR PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

TO THAT EFFECT, WE HAVE TO REMAIN STRONG AND VIGILANT IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT AND PRESERVE PEACE. WE HAVE ALSO TO REBUILD AND STRENGTHEN OUR ECONOMY, SO THAT ALONG WITH THE HARD-WON PEACE, OUR PEOPLE MAY ENJOY A DECENT LIFE, AND THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM WOULD BECOME MORE CLEARLY EVERY DAY APROMISING ALTERNATIVE TO A TOTALITARIAN SOCIETY.

IN THESE ENDEAVORS, WE SHALL VALUE VERY HIGHLY THE STEADFAST SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE
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BEEN FORGED THROUGH COMMON ORDEALS, JOINT EFFORTS, AND COMMON SACRIFICES FOR A NOBLE CAUSE.

I AM GLAD THEREFORE TO KNOW THAT YOU WILL DO YOUR UTMOST TO MAINTAIN THE CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONS WHICH HAVE LINKED OUR COUNTRIES IN THE PAST. IN THIS NOBLE MISSION, YOU CAN BE ASSURED, MR. AMBASSADOR, OF THE CONSTANT WHOLE-HEARTED COOPERATION OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.

UNQUOTE.

2. AMBASSADOR MARTIN MADE THE STATEMENT CONTAINED IN THE
REFERENCED MESSAGE. GVN PLANS TO RELEASE FULL CONTEXT OF
PRESIDENT THIEU'S REMARKS SATURDAY, JULY 21.
MARTIN

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